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of especial interest is "Homes for Wild Birds," offering suggestions for enticing migrating birds to establish themselves in places where they are needed either as insect-catchers or where they are wanted to fulfil their mission of song and beauty.

Annual Report for 1894, Geological Survey of Canada.[8]—This volume includes, besides the summary report of the Director of the Survey, a series of seven systematic, detailed reports on special work in particular regions of the Dominion. These several reports have been previously issued, as completed, and may be obtained separately.

The Director's report includes extended notices of the preliminary results of the various scientific investigations and explorations in the field, notably those of Mr. A. P. Low in Labrador and Mr. J. B. Tyrrel in a second expedition to the country west of Hudson Bay and north of the Churchill River. Attention also is called to the importance of the investigations of the petroleum fields of Athabasca and northern Alberta, as all indications favor the existence of a great oil-bearing region in the northwest.

The volume comprises 1206 pages. It is accompanied by eleven maps and illustrated by fifteen plates and diagrams, besides a number of figures in the text.

Thaxter's Laboulbeniaceæ.[9]—In a stately quarto volume of two hundred and forty-two beautifully printed pages and twenty-six plates crowded with six hundred and seventy-two elegantly drawn figures, Dr. Thaxter makes a notable addition to botanical science. Beginning his studies in 1890 when the known species in the world were but fifteen, of which but one was known to be North American, the author has brought to light so many new species that to-day there are no less than one hundred and fifty-eight known, and he estimates that when all the species throughout the world are discovered, the total number may be from five hundred to one thousand. Thus there is injected into our system of the fungi a group of no mean importance in point of numbers, which hitherto has been so little known as to be pretty generally ignored. Hereafter, even a general survey of the fungi must include some notice of this group.

[8] Annual Report for 1894 (new series), Vol. VII, Geological Survey of Canada. Ottawa, 1896.

[9] Contribution Towards a Monograph of the Laboulbeniaceæ. By Roland Thaxter. Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, XII. Presented May 8, 1895, published December, 1896.

The Laboulbeniaceæ are minute, stalked and commonly bristle-bearing parasites occurring upon beetles and, to a less extent, other insects. They are so small that only the keenest eyes can detect them without the aid of a good pocket-lens. They are most common upon insects living in moist places, although by no means uncommon upon those living in other situations. A close examination of any entomological collection of beetles is almost certain to be rewarded by the discovery of many specimens. Dr. Thaxter recommends examining the beetles suspected of harboring these parasites first over a dull white and then over a black surface, using a hand-lens magnifying from eight to ten diameters. "Every portion of the insect should be examined in different positions, and when the parasites have been discovered, they should be removed by means of a dissecting-needle inserted in a match far enough to give it the requisite stiffness, while its apex should have been ground on a fine oil-stone until a sharp, slightly oblique chisel-point has been obtained. With such a point, the individuals are scraped off without much difficulty, and should be transferred to a very small drop of water on the slide."

Structurally, these tiny fungi have the following characteristics: "A main body, or receptacle, is fixed by means of a blackened base, or foot, to the integument of the host, and consists, in most cases, of a very small number of cells differently arranged in different genera. This receptacle gives rise above to certain peculiar appendages of very variable form, commonly connected with the production of the male sexual organs; while from the same individual, with few exceptions, in which the plants are diœcious, female organs are also variously produced, from which perithecia are eventually developed. In the perithecia, which may arise, singly or in considerable numbers from a given individual, and which are quite remarkable in structure, are produced the reproductive bodies or ascospores that are formed in asci identical in all respects with the organs thus named in other members of the great group of ascomycetous fungi."

A close study of the structure of these minute plants shows clearly their relationship to the Rhodophyceæ, and since they are also, without doubt, true Ascomyceteæ, we have here a strong suggestion as to the origin of the asco-fungi. The author's guarded remarks that such a supposition "is not unworthy of consideration," and that such a theory "is more probable as well as more logical than that which is usually held," are quite justified by the structure which he so clearly describes and figures. This work is therefore a welcome confirmation of the views of those who, like the present reviewer, have held on theoretical grounds that the Ascomyceteæ are modified and degraded Rhodophyceæ.

The genera are disposed as follows by Dr. Thaxter :—

Family LABOULBENIACEÆ.

Group I, Endogenæ, with antherozoid produced endogenously.
Order Peyritschielleæ.
Genera *Dimorphomyces, Dimeromyces, Cantharomyces, Haplomyces, Eucantharomyces, Camptomyces, Enarthromyces, Peyritschiella, Dichomyces, Hydrœomyces, Chitonomyces.*
Order Laboulbenieæ.
Genera *Amorphomyces, Helminthophana, Stigmatomyces, Idiomyces, Corethromyces, Rhadinomyces, Rhizomyces, Laboulbenia, Tetratomyces, Diplomyces, Rhachomyces, Chastomyces, Sphaleromyces, Compsomyces, Moschomyces.*
Group II, Exogenæ, with antherozoids produced exogenously.
Order Zodiomyceteæ.
Genera *Ceratomyces, Zodiomyces.* —Charles E. Bessey.

Recent Text-Books.—Some years ago we noticed the first part of an Introduction to Entomology by Professor Comstock, and we thought when we received the present volume[1] that we at last had the completed work ; but a moment's examination showed that we had instead an entirely new work, somewhat smaller than the other would have been. It is essentially a work for the beginner in entomology, and contains just those things about species which the beginner wants to know. It begins with an essay on classification, etc., and then passes to a consideration of the Arthropoda, in which the Crustacea and Myriopoda are dismissed with short shrift and the Arachnida are treated with a little more detail, and then begins the discussion of the insects proper (*i. e.*, Hexapods). The general account of these is rather short, but is clear and accurate as a whole. These subjects already mentioned occupy 77 pages, the rest is devoted to classification. Professor Comstock divides the insects into the Orders:—Thysanura, Ephemerida, Odonata, Plecoptera, Isoptera, Corrodentia, Mallophaga, Dermaptera, Orthoptera, Physopoda, Hemiptera, Neuroptera, Mecaptera, Trichoptera, Lipidoptera, Diptera, Siphonoptera' Coleoptera, Hymenoptera—and these are treated in the order given. The author, however, disarms critisism of this arrangement by his words on p. 77. Among the specially notice-

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[1] A Manual for the Study of Insects. By John Henry Comstock and Anna Botsford Comstock. Ithaca, N. Y.: Comstock Pub. Co., 1895, 80 pp. x+701.